



Responsible use of Alcohol Policy

Rationale

Alcohol, although legal, is considered one of the most harmful drugs affecting young people today. Our school has a community responsibility to fully inform our students, staff and whole school community about the effects of alcohol. Alcohol education will sit within the context of our school's drug education program.

The guiding principle in this is that there will be no consumption of alcohol at events held on the SEPS grounds in which children are present.

Aims

- To provide accurate information regarding the effects of alcohol on the body.
- To ensure students have the necessary, age appropriate knowledge and skills to make positive informed choices over their use of alcohol taking into account the general illegality of underage drinking.
- To provide opportunities for the broader school community to participate in alcohol education activities.
- To clearly define the processes required when alcohol has been brought on to the school property or a student or staff member has attended school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
- To provide an acceptable alcohol free model for students at school events on school premises when students are present (For example - Welcome Picnic, Camp Out, Carols evening).

Implementation

- No consumption of alcohol at events held at Sandringham East Primary School in which children are present.
- School Council approval is required before alcohol can be consumed on school premises. Schools Councils must, however, comply with the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
- Fundraising and community events, where students are not present, may be approved as alcohol events by School Council.
- Consumption of alcohol at school events held off premises is subject to laws associated with provision of alcohol in public places.
- A clear protocol will be developed for addressing the issue of a student, staff member or community member attending school or a school function clearly under the influence of alcohol, or students consuming alcohol at school or during school functions.
- The consumption of alcohol by staff members on camps or excursions is not acceptable and may compromise a staff members professional standing, their ability to carry out their duty of care, and/or loss of WorkCover rights. Any occurrence will be referred to the Principal.
- Students are not permitted to bring alcohol on to school grounds under any circumstances, and a suspension from school will be a likely minimum outcome.
- Underage consumption of alcohol on school premises or at an external school function is strictly prohibited and any occurrence will be referred to the Principle, School Council President and Law Enforcement.

- A reminder of the Alcohol Policy will be included on any publicity information relating to the relevant events (Welcome Picnic, Camp Out, Carols evening etc).

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Department guidelines can be found at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/alcohol.aspx>

This policy was ratified by School Council – November 2016